

## Unapproved

**Town of Essex  
Conservation Commission  
29 West Avenue, Essex, ct  
essexct.gov**

**Special Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 4, 2012  
7:30 p.m.**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted a special meeting on Thursday, October 4, 2012 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall. Present: Chair, Kay Tucker, Jeff Lovelace, Doug Demarest, MaryAnn Pleva and Richard Helmecki.

Absent: Susan Malan, Pam Bernardini and Ron Skinner.

Attending Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### **Correct and approve September 2012 Special Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Tucker noted a change to the August 9, 2012 meeting Minutes which is underlined. Previously amended on Page 1, bottom of the page, "The Commission endorses the REMA conclusions and based on observations made during three site walks." Strike "three" and put in "two site walks".

### Approval and Corrections September 6, 2012 Special Meeting Minutes

Page 2: "Ms. Klinck and Ms. Tucker drafted a letter alerting residents that Ms. Klinck will be conducting research on their property.." Strike *Ms. Klinck*.

**Motion** made by Jeff Lovelace to approve the August and September, 2012 meeting Minutes as amended.

**Motion** seconded by Doug Demarest and passed unanimously.

### **Report on and Discussion of Conservation Easement Inventory Project**

Ms. Tucker stated that Jenna Klinck, utilizing the maps to determine the boundaries, went out to the research the easements on Wednesday. Ms. Klinck visited several of the conservation easements and took photographs. Ms. Klinck will contact the residents when she goes out on an upcoming weekend to apprise that she will be looking at the easement.

The inventory easement project is going forward and Maryann Sullivan, reporter from the Valley Courier will be contacted to write a piece featuring Ms. Klinck's progress. It was suggested that the Commission delay the story until such time that Ms. Klinck has had the opportunity to inspect several properties.

It was noted that Ms. Malan has contacted Attorney David Royston to determine if it is allowable to tag certain trees with "Public Access" signs. The Essex Land Trust owns and overseas the

easement at the Heron Pond subdivision and the Planning Commission oversees the easements at Bushy Hill Preserve.

Ms. Tucker will investigate the language on the preliminary documentation of the conservation easements. Ms. Tucker indicated that going forward the Commission will obtain definitions from the Town Planner on the new subdivisions and whether the "No Public Access" signs can be posted. Ms. Tucker noted that for those areas where public access is not allowed, there should be signage indicating the same and further questioned if there might be a benefit to come up with definitions of various terms such as conservation easements.

Ms. Pleva will visit the Town Hall and look at the subdivision application deeds for Brooks Lane, Westbrook Road and Old Dobbin to review what the easements entail and to determine if the signs can be installed.

**Review and discuss DEEP notification and permit #201203089-DL 23 Racketts Lane**

On September 27, 2012 the DEEP issued a Permit to Robert Murphy, 22 Racketts Lane, Essex for work to be conducted at South Cove off of his property. The Permit is for the installation of a 65' x 4' timber pier with a 10' x 6' pier head. Mr. Demarest stated that the dock extends 65 feet into South Cove. Per the CT General State Statutes, the DEEP must notice the First Selectman and the Conservation, Planning, Zoning and Harbor Management Commissions.

**Discuss trails, projects, expenditures and maintenance of town preserves:**

**a) Canfield Meadow Woods**

Mr. Helmecki walked Canfield Woods and he noted that someone clear cut several large trees in a strip. The steward of Canfield Meadow Woods is Tom Rutherford. Ms. Tucker stated that the Dennison Road and Book Hill Woods Road signage has not been installed. Mr. Demarest will contact Tom Rutherford to inquire when the kiosk will be installed on Dennison Road.

**b) Bushy Hill** Mr. Helmecki replaced several wooden slats on the footbridges. Mr. Helmecki also installed one reflector on the chain.

**c) Viney Hill Brook Park** Mr. Helmecki and Ms. Tucker visited Viney Hill Brook Park and cut back some vines and small trees. Mr. Lovelace will ask Mr. MacWhinney if he can remove the PCB plastic pipes which are situated in the vicinity of the Forest Glen trail. Mr. MacWhinney will also mow the meadow. Mr. Helmecki will weed whack the area around the Quarry Pond trail.

Ms. Tucker suggested that Mr. Helmecki and Mr. Demarest construct and install two additional bog bridges in the area of Broadwalk. Mr. Helmecki will speak with Selectman Needleman to discuss what can be done to address the wet area. It was noted that a bog bridge is also needed in the area of Forest Glen. Ms. Tucker suggested that further discussion on the bog bridges be tabled.

**Motion** by Maryann Pleva that two additional bog bridges be constructed and placed in Viney Hill Brook Park.

**Motion** seconded by Rich Helmecki with Kay Tucker, MaryAnn Pleva, Doug Demarest and Rich Helmecki in favor. Jeff Lovelace abstained. Motion carried 4/0/1.

Mr. Helmecki will contact Joe Budrow, WEO/ZEO and inform him of the Commission's plan to construct the bog bridges.

**Motion** made by Rich Helmecki to spend no more than \$200 for two bog bridges.

**Motion** seconded by Doug Demarest with Kay Tucker, MaryAnn Pleva and Rich Helmecki in favor. Jeff Lovelace abstained. Motion carried 4/0/1.

Ms. Pleva stated that November 17, 2012 marks the second annual family Turkey Tromp and Plunge at Viney Hill Brook Park from 10am to 11:30 pm.

**Inland Wetlands liaison report:** Mr. Lovelace stated that the IWWC conducted a site walk at 19 Heron Pond Road for an application to construct a swimming pool approximately 47 feet from a wetland area.

**Financial Report:** No report.

**Review correspondence:** A letter from the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions announcing the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on November 17, 2012 at the Sheraton in Meriden.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** made by Jeff Lovelace to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

**Motion** seconded by Rich Helmecki and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin  
Recording Secretary

The next special meeting of the Essex Conservation Commission will be conducted on Thursday November 1, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.